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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **DPS Awards \$100,000 Grant to Assist Municipalities with Energy Efficiency Improvements**

Montpelier, VT – Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS), Commissioner David O'Brien announced today that the DPS has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to assist municipalities with efficiency improvements in buildings, vehicle fleets, street and traffic lighting and other infrastructure. This grant will help fund a full-time "Municipal Energy Specialist," who will assist municipalities in reviewing their energy usage and make the most efficient use of electricity and heating and transportation fuel. The Municipal Energy Specialist will work closely with the project partners, Vermont League of Cities and Towns, DPS, Efficiency Vermont, Vermont Gas Systems, and the Burlington Electric Department, to coordinate this statewide energy efficiency effort.

"This project will help Vermont municipalities save money through the implementation of energy efficiency measures and enable them to refocus those savings on other municipal needs," said O'Brien. "The grant will also provide non-energy related benefits such as improved building performance, decreased maintenance, and enhanced comfort for building occupants."

As part of this project the Municipal Energy Specialist, Alison Hollingsworth, will identify energy efficiency opportunities in municipal buildings through onsite visits and encourage the installation of improvements that will yield the highest energy and cost savings. Hollingsworth will also conduct outreach and training for municipal governments, promote high performance building design, introduce energy management tools, and provide strategies for financing projects. Hollingsworth has extensive experience in developing and managing energy efficiency projects in new construction and existing buildings throughout Vermont.

Municipalities interested in receiving assistance should contact Alison Hollingsworth, Municipal Energy Specialist at: 1-888-921-5990, ext. 1105 or [ahollingsworth@veic.org](mailto:ahollingsworth@veic.org).

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